The Builder.

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NOVEMBER opens the doors of the majority of the London scientific and artistical societies, up to that month closed, and if it bring fogs and catarrh, brings also many pleasant and useful re-unions. The Institute of Architects, the Royal Society, the Antiquarian, the Archæological, the Society of Arts, and others with which we have less to do, are amongst these; the covers are taken off, the bookcases are unclosed, and the *habitués* find their way to the meeting places from all parts of the world, their resorts during summer, to renew kindly relationships, idle an hour, put themselves pretentiously before the world, gain information, or really increase the general stock of it, as the case may be. All are busy in their own little way,—little, indeed, alas! even with the most powerful,—digging in the great mine of nature. What one disregards, the other considers the object of life; (to use an old metaphor, a man, a dog, a bird, and a worm find very different objects of interest in the same grass-field) and so the great work of advancement best goes on.

The opening meeting of the Institute of Architects was held on Monday, the 5th inst., at their rooms in Grosvenor-street, when the Right Hon. Earl de Grey took the chair, and 149 members and visiters attended. Amongst them, in addition to those spoken of hereafter as taking part in the proceedings, we will mention: Messrs. Cockerell, Scoles, Mee, Mair, Penrose, G. Pownall, S. Angell, Salvin, Bellamy, Kendall, Booth, Garling, D. Brandon, Jas. Thomson, Papworth, W. Burn, Ferrey, Sibley, James Fergusson, Nash, T. Bury, H. Williams, C. C. Nelson, Jennings, H. Ashton, Knowles, Tarring, Hopkins, H. Clutton, Heneker, C. H. Smith, G. Foggo, Dr. O'Callaghan, J. Wilks, John Britton, Colonel Sykes, Thomas Little, Henry Thomas Hope, M.P., and the Dean of Westminster.

The president, after a few general observations, said that as he had at the last meeting mentioned the probable intention of the London University to institute an examination in architecture, and to give certificates of proficiency, it was necessary he should state that the council had entered into correspondence with the university, and found that at present they intended to confine their certificates to chemistry, navigation, and hydrography. In due time, however, architecture would have its share. Relative to certain points in dispute which had been referred to the council of the Institute, he would remark, that many things which seemed desirable at first sight, were not found so on reviewal. The council had given the matter much consideration, and their report was now being printed. It would be circulated preparatory to a special meeting on the 26th, for its consideration, when it would of course rest with the members to adopt it or not.* During the recess the council had made application to many individuals distinguished in different branches of scientific investigation, and had received promises of several important papers, but he wished to impress upon the Institute that they ought not to be dependent on extraneous aid, but should look to themselves for support. The youngest members might do something: the elder members could of course do much, and although their time and attention were doubtless much absorbed, they might surely find a moment of leisure to communicate a point of experience. Even trifles in the aggregate become important. There was one subject in connection with the well-being of the profession, on which he thought strongly, and would say a few words. The close connection with foreign countries, effected by improved facilities of communication, opened the way for the more free adoption of modes of decoration from abroad than heretofore, and he thought that the younger members of the profession should bear this in mind, and not consider matters of fittings and adornments beneath their notice. The architect who thinks his duty done, when the building is covered in and plastered, does wrong, and throws much into the hands of others, upholsterers, paperhangers, and decorators, which ought to be decided on by himself. Moreover, continued the president, if the result be a failure, the blame, as a matter of course, falls on the poor architect, but if the contrary, the decorator takes all the credit. He was satisfied that architects acted unwisely who thought such matters beneath their notice, and so did not give that study to them which was required. The architect, continued the president, must study many things. He had been invited, as president of the Institute, some time since, by the Lord Mayor, to meet the fellows of the Royal Society and the Royal Academicians (such were the words of the invitation); these represented science and art; and it occurred to him, when called on to return thanks on the part of the Institute, that the architect was the connection between the purely scientific man and the artist. The man of science might be great in his department, and be quite ignorant of art: the supremest painter might know nothing of science; but the architect who would be great must have a knowledge of both;—science to found and construct; art to proportion, ornament, and produce beauty; knowledge of materials, their qualities and uses; acquaintance with the science of numbers; taste to produce fine forms and harmonious proportions. A skill in the use of colour sometimes did much for an architect, perhaps too much; he would mention a laughable instance. He was standing amongst the designs for the Nelson monument, when they were exhibited, contemplating one which pleased him less than many, when two ladies approached, and one of them, pointing to it, said, "Oh! how beautiful; I hope they will choose that. Look at *the soldiers*, Laura!" "Yes, Lucy," said the other, "but will the soldiers always be there?" Now Laura and Lucy represented a number of people in this world, and the incident served to show how far a little bit of red sometimes went. His lordship added, he would not then occupy their attention longer than to say, that whatever difference of opinion there might be as to the governing regulations of the body, he trusted that, as all had one object, these would be sunk in an effort to extend still further the reputation of the Institute—already worthily known all over Europe. Let the maxim be "bear and forbear."

Mr. Tite, who often contrives to find a rhyme to illuminate other people's reason, said, there were two or three lines by Cowper which so fully set forth one point urged by the president, that he could not avoid quoting them. They were these:—

> "It is not timber, lead, and stone,
> An architect requires alone,
> To finish a fine building,—
> The palace were but half complete,
> If he could possibly forget
> The carving and the gilding."

Professor Donaldson announced that Signor Canina had sent the two first volumes of his great book on the "Ancient Edifices of Rome," saying, in the letter of thanks for the royal medal which accompanied the present, that the work was probably the largest now publishing during these troublous times in Europe, and on that account deserved some protection. The Signor added, that he hoped soon to publish two other volumes, if the means did not fail him. A long list of other donations was announced, consisting principally of the transactions of other bodies, amongst which we were glad to find those of the Archæological Society of *Athens*, and to learn that it is still pursuing its useful labours.

The Signor Antolini, architect, professor at the Academy of Fine Arts at Bologna; the Abate Antonio Magrini, and the Signor Miglioranza, architect, of Vicenza; the Signor Vantini, architect, of Brescia; and Mynheer J. B. Weening, architect, director of the academy at the Hague, were elected honorary and corresponding members. And Professor Cockerell, Mr. Bunning, and Mr. G. G. Scott, were proposed for election as fellows hereafter.

This brought us to the paper of the evening, "Remarks on the earlier and later Gothic Architecture of Germany," by the Rev. Dr. Whewell, master of Trinity.

It is of the greatest importance to the art that such men as Dr. Whewell should be led to apply their tutored minds to the elimination of guiding principles, and our best thanks are due to him for his contribution on this occasion. He came forward, he said, but as an amateur. To determine the progress of styles, to trace their growth, seemed to him an important object, and to aid in this it was that he strove. Deductions from the examination of existing monuments would not of themselves suffice,—these must be confirmed by reference to history. He had already put forth the theory, founded mainly on the churches of the Rhine, that the leading features of Gothic architecture had grown out of the necessities of structure, and his object on this occasion was to carry his theory a little further, treating of the tendencies which had changed the character of buildings in the later Gothic period. He should be assisted in this by the works of some recent German writers, who had pursued the investigation to a considerable extent. The Rev. Dr. then proceeded to discriminate what he considered the three important principles concerned in the formation of the Gothic style, namely, the principle of frame-work; the principle of tracery,—which he thought quite distinct from frame-work; and the principle of wall-work; but the inquiry was sufficiently subtle to prevent us from attempting to convey now a general notion of it in few words: we may perhaps be able to refer to it at greater extent hereafter. He spoke at considerable length of what he called the principle of upward growth. Speaking of unconstructive forms of the later Gothic, Dr. Whewell said that the outer portion of Strasburgh spire would not hold itself together: the joints, as he had ascertained, were vertical, and could not stand; but there were

* The tenor of the report may of course be inferred from this without difficulty.

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